

Remarks

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 17, 19-21, 26-29, 31, 32, 34-36, and 41-45. New claims 46 has been introduced. Claim 46 is supported by page 16, last paragraph of the specification as originally filed. Claim 33 has been amended to limit the treatment of diseases to those diseases supported by page 16, last paragraph. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner maintains that claims 38-40 are withdrawn because the claims lack unity of invention. Applicants have cancelled claims 38-40 without acquiescing to the Examiner's comments and respectfully retain the right to file a Continuation/Divisional patent application with respect to these claims.

In view of the remarks and the amendments, further and favorable consideration of the present application and the allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner is also invited to contact the undersigned should the Examiner believe that such contact would expedite prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 430
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(862) 778-2614



Gregory C. Houghton
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 47,666

Date: 11/16/04